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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : 09/942,120 Confirmation No. 3677  
Applicant : MINORU HASHIDA, et al.  
Filed : August 30, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 3677  
Examiner : D. MELWANI  
Docket No. : 056203.50347US  
Customer No. : 23911  
Title : SEAL MECHANISM AND FUEL PUMP PROVIDED  
THEREWITH

**LETTER**

**Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment**

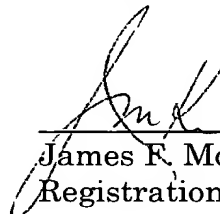
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In light of the recent telephone exchange between the undersigned and Examiner Melwani, it is understood that a new Office Action will be issued to consider the Reply filed on December 23, 2003, along with a Request for Continued Examination. It appears that the latter document was not before the Examiner when issuing the Advisory Action mailed January 27, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

February 25, 2004

  
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JFM/lvb